

In addition, the Commission sought specific information from the electric power suppliers with regard to the availability and use of the identified rate structures, policies, and measures.<sup>1</sup>

The Commission did not, however, attempt to analyze every policy that might promote renewable energy or energy efficiency. In determining the list to be considered, the Commission focused on those structures, policies, and measures, like decoupling, which are related to electric utility rates, either specific rate schedules or issues regarding rate design.

The Commission, therefore, did not consider in this analysis a number of policies that obviously impact the development of renewable energy or energy efficiency but are not related to rates or rate design, such as system benefit charges or other "grid fees," building codes, tax credits, supply procurement practices, "carbon adders" for fossil generation when comparing resource options, interconnection procedures, energy efficiency portfolio standards, independent third-party energy efficiency administrators, or mechanisms that would pass through to consumers energy efficiency benefits other than from retail electric rates.<sup>2</sup> The Commission notes that the General Assembly may wish to consider studying subjects outside of the purview of the Commission, such as tax policy and building codes, that would also impact the development of renewable energy or energy efficiency in North Carolina.

In addition, the Commission did not attempt to perform an energy efficiency study as part of this analysis or identify potentially cost-effective demand-side management programs or energy efficiency measures that might or should be implemented by electric power suppliers. An evaluation of such measures is currently required to be undertaken by electric public utilities and electric membership corporations as part of the integrated resource planning process. Also, a number of electric power suppliers have recently undertaken such studies because of the inclusion of energy reductions through the implementation of energy efficiency measures to comply with the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS) adopted in Senate Bill 3.

## **Retail Electric Suppliers in North Carolina**

Electric consumers in North Carolina are served by one of the following types of electric power suppliers: investor-owned utilities (IOUs), university-owned utilities, electric membership corporations (EMCs), and municipally-owned

---

<sup>1</sup> The information submitted by the electric power suppliers as well as all of the comments received by the Commission in preparing its analysis are available on the Commission's Internet web site, <http://www.ncuc.net> (search for Docket No. E-100, Sub 116).

<sup>2</sup> For example, in 2001, California implemented a "20/20" program under which consumers that reduced their energy consumption by 20% from the prior year received a 20% rebate on their summer electric bills.